



Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

Spring Tour of Historic Houses

Spring 1998

Celebrating National Historic Preservation Week

By Cheryl Hunter

Mark your calendars! May 10 through 16 is National Historic Preservation Week. Observed nationally since 1971, this annual event is our chance to showcase and acknowledge preservation in Forest Grove. It's a time to take pride in our heritage, promote historic places and enjoy our community.

Your home—which can be a farmhouse, a bungalow or even an apartment—is the place where you celebrate your heritage and create history of your own. The importance of saving and enhancing the places where we live—not just the buildings, but also the community—is the focus of this year's event.

"Preservation Begins at Home" is sponsored nationally by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and locally by the Historic Landmarks Board and the Friends of Historic Forest Grove.

We ask you to recognize the beauty, variety and significance of our older buildings and neighborhoods that shape and enrich our lives. Here in Forest Grove, we are observing Preservation Week with a celebration banner, hung at the entrance to downtown, by the presentation of the Eric G. Stewart Award (see page 2), and with a tour of historic homes, Saturday, May 16, co-sponsored by the Friends of Historic Forest Grove and the Historic Landmarks Board.

The Spring Tour of Historic Homes is your entrée to eight or more unique properties in Forest Grove. See the recently remodeled "cockpit" of an airplane bungalow. Experience the luxury of the Rasmussen-Price House, and the practicality of the Craftsman-style Deeks House. Stroll historic downtown, and tour an antique mall housed in the Woods & Caples Building, on the National Register of Historic Places. Pacific University's Old College Hall Museum, built in 1850, also is on the National Register and will be open during tour hours.

Houses are open from noon to 4 p.m. Cost is \$7.50. Proceeds will benefit the Forest Grove History Room. For more information, contact Martha Khoury at (503) 357-7309. Pre-sale tickets will be available May 4 at Collections in the Attic in the old Grove Furniture Building at 2020 Main Street. Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour at Collections in the Attic, or at the Watt house, at 15th and Elm Street. Come celebrate our history!

In conjunction with the house tour, Collections in the Attic is hosting an antique identification booth May 16, from noon until 3. Visitors may bring up to three antiques.

Historic Homeowner Tax Credit

By Martha Khoury

Having just filed your taxes, do you think you could use a bit of a break? Then it's time to lobby your Congress for the Historic Homeowner Tax Credit. This legislation was not included in the final consideration for the 1997 tax bill, but the outlook seems hopeful for 1998. Every voice counts!

The Historic Homeownership Assistance Act (HR1134 and S496) would:

- Direct a federal tax credit toward the housing stock in deteriorating neighborhoods and communities where the goals of historic preservation, community revitalization and home ownership can be pursued concurrently.
- Help both large cities and small towns rebuild their core neighborhoods and strengthen their entire economic, social and natural environments.
- Help control unchecked urban sprawl by providing an incentive to capitalize on a community's historic resources and attract reinvestment in older areas, bringing abandoned properties back onto the tax rolls.

* H.R. 1134/S. 496 would establish a 20-percent historic rehabilitation tax credit to homeowners who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated, eligible home, and occupy it as a principal residence.

* Qualifying properties would be those listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places, or contributing structures within historic districts listed on the Register, or within certified state or local historic districts.

* Developers could rehabilitate properties, sell them and pass the credit on to the home buyers. In this way, nonprofit housing providers could utilize historic preservation as a way to further affordable home ownership.

* This credit can be used by residents of diverse income levels who are living in or wish to live in historic neighborhoods. Home buyers who do not have sufficient tax liability to utilize the credit would be eligible for a Historic Home Mortgage Credit Certificate, which can be used to buy down the interest rate on their home mortgage, or which, in distressed areas, could be put toward the down payment at closing.

For more information: contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Department of Law and Public Policy, at 202-588-6254 (e-mail: policy@nthp.org).

Or, contact your Congressional representatives.

Neighborhood Survey Update

By Martha Khoury

Work is well underway on our survey of the Walker, Naylor and West Park Additions of Forest Grove (page 3, Autumn newsletter).

The survey covers roughly the area of Pacific Avenue to 22nd Avenue, between College Way and C Street, in the northwest section of town.

Initial reconnaissance has identified about 40 properties as possible additions to our local Historic Register. Additional research will be conducted on the architecture and historical significance of these properties. An informational meeting will be held to share preliminary findings with the public.

As part of the research, we are seeking information on the individuals listed below, who once lived in the survey area. If you have information to share, please contact Martha Khoury at 357-7309 (khoury@ipinc.net).

Our historic properties contribute significantly to the image of Forest Grove, and therefore, our economic development and quality of life.

This survey will assist our efforts to help preserve that heritage and image for the future of our town.

The survey is being funded primarily through a grant



Harry Crosley House, 2125 A Street

from the State Historic Preservation Office and local volunteer efforts. If you have questions about the survey, please contact a board member or James Reitz, Associate Planner, 359-3233, during business hours.

Information on the individuals listed below, who once lived in the survey area, would be of help in the research.

Who was Who in the Walker, Naylor and West Park Additions:

Please contact Martha Khoury at 357-7309 (khoury@ipinc.net) with any information on these people:

Anderson, John
Bailey, Hal
Berger, Gertrude
Bishop, Dr.
Boos, Hattie E.
Brock, George & Eunice
Broderson, Art
Brown, Oscar & Harriet
Buxton, Henry T.
Buxton, Rosanna Wolley
Carl, Louis J.
Crowther, Minnie (Baker)
Davis, Joseph
Dilley, Milton Elias
Emerson, F. W.
French, Orvil & Mary
Gibson, Alice
Gibson, Guy
Giltner, Ray
Gleason, John E.
Hall, Benjamin and Luke
Hamilton, Elmer
Harrison, Raymond
Hogue, Annie L.
Hutchens, Orval
Ingles, William Styles
King, Dr. R. M.
LaTourette, Dewitt C.
LaTourette, William H.

Lee, Roscoe & Myrtle
Lockwood
Marsh, Sidney H.
Martin, Norman
May, Elmer
MacLeod
McAlear
McCurdy
McEldowney, W. W.
McGivra, Hugh
McMillin, B. F.
Noble, Mark L.
Parsons, Dan
Parsons, Joe
Porter, Jerome & Ellen Wooley
Raffety
Porter, John R.
Proctor, Edward & Fern
Rafferty, A. C.
Redetzke, Albert & Anna

Renfrow, Edward
Reynolds, George S.
Riordan, Edna May
Sedgwick, C. W.
Shearer, Ottilie
Sherwood, John W.
Sloan, Sarah
Smith, Alvin T. & Abigail
Smith, W. D.
Spangler
Sparks, Lee F. & Lillie
Stewart, Fern
Strawbridge, John
Taylor, Dr. W. R.
Tongue, T. H.
Van Donecien, Vince
Walsh, Maurice & Mary
Weber, W. H.
Williams, H. A.
Williams, Ray

The Eric G. Stewart Award

The Eric G. Stewart Award for 1998 is awarded to **Mary Jo Morelli**, in recognition of her tireless efforts for historic preservation.

Mary Jo teaches a Forest Grove History class at Pacific University, is president of the Friends of Historic Forest Grove, and is always ready to lend a helping hand or let us all pick her brain, which is full of knowledge. Mary Jo, Thank YOU!

A Little Mystery Solved

By Jim Casto

In the Winter issue appeared a photo and article about an exotic-looking gas station operated by Frank Miller in Forest Grove, circa 1910. It was speculated the distinctive little building may have been a leftover from the Lewis and Clark Exposition, that had been moved to Forest Grove—but there was no evidence one way or the other.

Following up on that article, I spoke with Ruth Loomis, who knew the Miller family very well.

Ruth says Frank Miller was an early hop grower in the Forest Grove area. His wife had a hankering to move to California, so they packed up, moved to California and started an orange grove. But Frank didn't care much for growing oranges, so they moved back to Forest Grove and built a home on Birch Street.

While Frank was in California, he became familiar with the burgeoning automobile industry, and the gasoline stations built to serve those vehicles.

When he returned to Forest Grove and saw that a couple of local people were simply pumping gas from containers at the curb, he built an "official" gasoline station, similar to some he had seen in California.

So, while Forest Grove's first gas station wasn't a recycled Exposition building, it certainly was an example of one Forest Grove resident's initiative and sense of style.

A Delivery Boat on Gales Creek

By Walt Wentz

George Hoar was born in 1912 on a farm near Dilley, one and a half miles from Forest Grove. As a small boy, around 1915-1918, he remembers riding into town via horse and buggy with his father, George Sr.

As they crossed the bridge over Gales Creek, he recalls often seeing a small boat at a landing on the bank. He believes the boat was delivering supplies for Forest Grove stores.

The boat's landing was a bit upstream of the "old swimmin' hole" west of the bridge, at the place where the stream comes closest to the road. As George recalls, there were two large trees between which the boat would tie up, and where it was met by a team and wagon from town.

"If the man wasn't there, they'd give him a couple of hoots on the whistle," he recalls.

The boat was quite small—George estimates a length of 15 or 20 feet—with a crew of two: one to operate the steam engine, and one to fend off the banks, lift branches and cut snags out of the way.

Although the sternwheeler *Onward* had left the Tualatin in 1873, more than 40 years before, and the railroad had reached Forest Grove in 1872, many of the factors that gave birth to river traffic had continued to exist until around 1920: Most country roads were still dirt lanes, particularly bad in winter, and automobiles were not yet plentiful.

For farms off the main road and the railroad, delivering produce to market still involved time-consuming hauling by team and wagon—unless water transport was available.

If—as seems likely—the little local boat delivered produce from downstream farms to Forest Grove stores, it was simply continuing, on a small scale, what the *Onward* had done

100 Years Ago

Washington County Hatchet-Forest Grove Times
Collected by Barb Smith

Mr. Leach has traded his house and lot in South Park for Jesse Crosley's farm near Dilley.

Soda water, ginger ale, egg soda and champagne cider and all temperance drinks at Macrum's.

Circulating Library—A choice selection of novels to rent at 5 cents each, also can be found magazines, journals and latest fashion books at Allen's barber shop.

This office gratefully acknowledges some very good ice cream on Saturday morning. Miss Mary Clark prepared the cream and John Miller did the circular work. It was good and we appreciated it and are ready to be treated in the same way again.

along the Tualatin years before. Any farm wife with a dozen eggs, or a farmer with garden produce, milk or beef to sell, could flag the boat down to transport it to market.

George recalls that another, perhaps smaller boat operated on Dairy Creek, delivering supplies to a store that once stood on the high ground south of the bridge that crosses Dairy Creek, east of Verboort. He says that the old Dutch farmers in the area remembered, with laughter, how the boat's crew struggled to cut their way through the overhanging brush along the narrow and winding stream.

Boats could operate best when the water was highest, during winter and spring, but would have had a hard time in summer and fall, when streams were low. And, after World War I ended, as rural roads were graveled and Model Ts spread to the countryside, dependable, year-round transport would have finally eliminated any need for the boats.

Despite generations of road filling, streambank erosion and floods, two large trees still stand near the Gales Creek boat landing—one a black walnut, another a bigleaf maple.

Are there any other longtime residents who remember the little delivery boat?

The parking turnoff where the B Street bridge crosses Gales Creek is still used by local youth visiting the old swimmin' hole—as it has been for at least a century—and by anglers in steelhead season. In the old days, George Hoar says, it was also used by the Gypsies.

Up until the 1920s, these migratory folk still wandered the countryside in their horse-drawn camp wagons, following long-established routes.

"They came though two or three times a summer," George says, and they parked their caravans—one or two wagons—on the flat beside the bridge.

Calendar of Coming Events

Forest Grove Tour of Historic Houses

Saturday, May 16, noon to 4 p.m.

In recognition of National Historic Preservation Week

Fundraiser for Forest Grove History Room

Cost: \$7.50 Contact: Martha Khoury, 357-7309

Friends of Historic Forest Grove Garden Tour

"Artful Gardens"

Saturday, June 6

Contact: Patty Schmitz, 357-4646

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Preserving Forest Grove is a quarterly newsletter published by the Historic Landmarks Board to help fulfill its duty of public education regarding the preservation of cultural resources. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please call James Reitz at 359-3233.

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